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State Board of Law Examiners.  
New Rules of Admission  
Promulgated by the Supreme  
Court, November 11, 1902.

As a result of the Memorial of the Pennsylvania Bar Association for a change in the system of admissions to the Bar and for the appointment of a State Board of Law Examiners, the following rules were adopted and promulgated November 11, 1902, by the Supreme Court sitting at Pittsburg, the same to take effect from the first Monday of January, 1903:

RULE I.—No person shall be admitted to practise as an attorney in this Court except upon the recommendation of the State Board of Law Examiners.

RULE II.—Any applicant for admission to the Bar of this Court, who is now in good and regular standing at the Bar of a Court of Common Pleas of this Commonwealth, and after he shall have practised therein for at least two years, may be admitted, without examination upon the certificate of the State Board of Law Examiners that he is eligible for admission under the provisions of the rules of this Court heretofore in force; and no such candidate shall be required to advertise or pay any fee for reporting upon his credentials; but this rule shall not apply to graduates of law schools, who shall have been admitted to a Court of Common Pleas upon their diplomas, unless they shall have practised at least two years in some one of the Courts of this Commonwealth.

RULE III.—Any student who, on or prior to this date, has begun the study of the law, under the rules governing admissions to the Bar of the judicial district within which he resides, may apply to the State Board of Law Examiners for examination and admission to the Bar of this Court at such

date as he would have been entitled to apply for admission in such judicial district; and the certificate of the Board of Examiners shall be conclusive evidence of his eligibility for admission to the Bar of this Court upon examination.

RULE IV.—No person shall be registered as a student at law for the purpose of becoming entitled to admission to the Bar of the Supreme Court until he shall have satisfied the State Board of Law Examiners that he is of good moral character, and shall have passed a preliminary examination upon the following subjects: (1) English language and literature; (2) Outlines of universal history; (3) History of England and of the United States; (4) Arithmetic, algebra through quadratics, and plane geometry; (5) Modern geography; (6) The first four books of Cæsar's Commentaries, the first six books of the Æneid, and the first four orations of Cicero against Catiline.

Every such candidate shall pay to the State Board a fee of ten dollars, and upon receiving a certificate recommending his registration and certifying that he is qualified to begin the study of the law, shall cause his name, age, place of residence, and the name of his preceptor, or the law school in which he proposes to pursue his studies, to be registered with the Prothonotary of the Eastern District.

RULE V.—Candidates for admission, who have spent at least three years after registration in the study of the law, either by attendance upon the regular course of a law school, offering at least a three years' course, eight months in the year and an average of ten hours per week each year, or partly in a law school and partly in the office of a practising attorney, or by the *bona fide* service of a regular clerkship in the office of a practising attorney, shall be eligible to appear for examination for admission to the Bar of this Court upon complying with the following requirements:—

1. A candidate must advertise his intention to apply for admission in a law periodical or a newspaper designated by the Board, and published within the judicial district within which he shall have pursued his studies, and in the *Legal Intelligencer*, once a week for four weeks immediately preceding his appearance before the Board.

2. He must file the necessary credentials with the Board in such form as shall be prescribed at least twenty-one days before the date of examination, and shall pay to the Board a fee of twenty dollars.

3. He must file a certificate, signed by at least three members of the Bar in good standing in the judicial district in which he has resided or intends to practise, that he is personally known to them, and that they believe him to be of good moral character.

4. A certificate from the dean of the law school or preceptor that he has been regular in attendance and pursued the study of the law with diligence from the time of his registration.

RULE VI.—Every applicant for admission must sustain a satisfactory examination in Blackstone's Commentaries, constitutional law, including the Constitutions of the United States and Pennsylvania, equity, the law of real and personal property, evidence, decedents' estates, landlord and tenant, contracts, partnership, corporations, crimes, torts, domestic relations, common law pleading and practice, Pennsylvania practice, the Federal statutes relating to the judiciary and to bankruptcy, Pennsylvania statutes and decisions and the rules of Court.

RULE VII.—Examinations for registration and admission to the Bar shall be conducted in writing, and shall be held simultaneously, after due notice, twice a year, in the cities of Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Pittsburg, Williamsport and Wilkes-Barre.



RULE VIII.—The State Board of Law Examiners shall hold office during the pleasure of the Court for a term not exceeding five years, except that of the members of the Board now appointed one shall withdraw at the end of each year, such withdrawals to be made in the order of seniority of admission to the Bar. The members of the Board shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed their traveling and other expenses. The Board may, with the approval of the Court, appoint assistants to aid in securing compliance with the conditions preliminary to registration and examination, to superintend the conduct of the candidates, and to make a preliminary report upon the answers of the candidates; but the members of the Board shall be responsible to the Court for the enforcement of these rules and the proper ascertainment of the results of the examinations, and no student shall be rejected except by a majority of the State Board of Law Examiners. The Board shall also have power to appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer, or the same person may hold both offices, and they may pay to each assistant examiner and to the Secretary and Treasurer, out of the fees received, and after deduction of the necessary expenses, a reasonable compensation.

RULE IX.—It shall be the duty of the State Board of Law Examiners to prepare a paper for gratuitous distribution among intending applicants for registration or admission, containing detailed information as to the subjects of examination.

EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, ss.

I, Charles S. Greene, Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, in and for the Eastern District, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the new Rules of Admission of said Court, filed November 11th, 1902.



Witness my hand and official seal,  
this thirteenth day of November, A. D.  
1902.

CHAS. S. GREENE,  
Prothonotary of Supreme Court,  
Eastern District.

**Copy of Rule No. "X" published as of 15 March, 1903. by State Board of Law Examiners, but not as yet (29 June, 1903,) promulgated by the Supreme Court:**

RULE X.—Attorneys from other States, upon presenting satisfactory evidence that they are members in good standing of the Appellate Court of last resort of the State from which they came; that they have practised in a Court of Record of that State for at least five years, and that they are of good moral character, may be admitted to the Bar of this Court without examination upon the recommendation of the State Board (*provided*, however, that the Board may, in its discretion, require any such applicant to take a final examination).

Attorneys from other States, upon presenting satisfactory evidence that they are members in good standing of a Court of Record of the State from which they came and have practised therein for at least

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**STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS**

**AND**

**NEW RULES OF ADMISSION RECOMMENDED BY THE STATE BOARD AND APPROVED BY THE COURT, IN THE BELIEF THAT THEY REPRESENTED THE CONSENSUS OF OPINION AT THE BAR.**

The following draft for resolutions is submitted for consideration by the members of the Association :

Resolved, that the Pennsylvania Bar Association records its high sense of appreciation of the act of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth in establishing a State Board of Law Examiners, as prayed in the Memorial from the Association.

Resolved, that the Pennsylvania Bar Association disapproves of the recommendation by the State Board of a rule empowering the said Board to appoint assistants to perform the essential duties of examiners, and records its belief that the State Board of Law Examiners should discharge the essential duties of the office.

Resolved, that the Association disapproves of the recommendation of the State Board of Law Examiners of a rule requiring holders of academic diplomas, evidencing a liberal education, to submit themselves to the rigors of an examination in elementary subjects before being permitted to be registered as students at law, and records its conviction that holders of such diplomas should be permitted to be registered without further examination as to their educational qualifications.

Resolved, that the Bar Association respectfully requests that the Supreme Court reconsider the recommendations of the State Board of Law Examiners with reference to the above points.

Resolved, that the Secretary of the Association be directed to present a certified copy of these resolutions to the Supreme Court when it sits in Philadelphia on July 8, 1903.